

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Ferrari Opposes New Mandate On Local School Districts**



Legislation approved Wednesday by the state House of Representatives that would ban the sale of some snacks and soft drinks in Connecticut's public schools while requiring them to set aside at least 20 minutes per day for recess is simply another mandate that further erodes the authority of local Boards of Education to set priorities for their school districts, state Representative Richard F. Ferrari, R-62nd District, said today.

The measure (Senate Bill 1309) would prohibit the sale of candy, sodas, and other snacks from school vending machines and require schools to set aside 20 minutes per school day to enable students in kindergarten through grade five to engage in physical exercise, Representative Ferrari said.

"This is yet another mandate being imposed on Connecticut school districts by the liberal left wing of the majority party at the General Assembly. Over the years they have gradually usurped the authority of locally elected boards of education to make decisions that are in the best interests of our children," Representative Ferrari said. "They do not trust school boards made up of concerned parents and others who are active in their communities to make decisions on what their children are being taught and how they are being taught. Bureaucrats and politicians in Hartford are systematically excluding those who are most familiar with conditions in their schools and are best-qualified to respond to the concerns and needs of students and parents."

"The state legislature's liberal majority is flexing its muscles and seeking to impose its radical agenda on our towns and cities. If the General Assembly continues on this track, local boards of education will no longer be able to set educational policies and priorities for our schools. Instead, Big Brother in Hartford will dictate them to us. We are losing more of our freedoms every year. I shudder to think of which ones will go next," Representative Ferrari said.

The legislation was returned to the State Senate for reconsideration after the House amended it Wednesday. The Senate approved an earlier version of the bill April 27th. Both chambers must agree on a final draft before it can go to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.